

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
EB-08 SS-15 OES-09 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8258
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ESCAP, TECH, OCON
SUBJ: SECOND ESCAP REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UN
CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT,
JULY 17-21, 1978

REF: A) BANGKOK 33919, B) STATE 132092

1. SUMMARY. SECOND ESCAP REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UNCSTD CONSIDERED STATUS OF NATIONAL PREPARATIONS, REVISED DRAFT REGIONAL PAPER, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM OF ACTION. DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE ON MNCS AND TRANSFERS OF PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY, WERE GENERALLY USEFUL AND FREE OF POLEMICS. US PROPOSAL FOR FITC RECEIVED MOST FAVORABLE REACTION. UNCSTD SEC GEN DA COSTA PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE BUT STILL CONTROVERSIAL LEADERSHIP ROLE AS IN PREPCON II AT GENEVA. PRC PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY FOR FIRST TIME, PROBABLY AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO INCREASINGLY PROMINENT ROLE OF USSR IN ESCAP. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL PREPARATIONS. MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES INDICATED THEIR NATIONAL PAPERS STILL UNDERGOING SUBSTANTIAL REVIEW AT POLICY LEVELS. THIS TRUE FOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA AND JAPAN WHICH CIRCULATED PRELIMINARY DRAFTS IN MAY. IN COVERING THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PAPERS, MOST COUNTRIES GAVE PRIORITY TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TRAINING AND EDUCATION. IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING A BASE OF TECHNICIANS WAS STRESSED.

3. MNCS: USDEL SCORED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN REDUCING HOSTILE COMMENTS AGAINST MNCS. REFERENCES BY LDC DELS TO MNCS WHILE EXPRESSING CONCERN WERE GENERALLY DIS-
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PASSIONATE. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT MNCS HAVE BEEN DOING GOOD WORK AND OCCUPY A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION. SINGAPORE SPOKE OF SIGNIFICANT TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY MNCS AND PHILIPPINES WERE SUPPORTIVE OF MNCS. AUSTRALIA SAID IT WAS A QUESTION OF TAMING THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG. THESE MORE BALANCED VIEWS WERE ALSO REFLECTED IN APPROVED REPORT OF THE MEETING.

4. US STATEMENT: USDEL (WILKOWSKI) STATED THAT UNCSTD PREPARATIONS HAVE CAUSED US TO DO MANY THINGS IT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE DONE, INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL POLICY REVIEW. US RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN CHANGES IN ITS POLICY WERE NEEDED IN ORDER BE MORE RESPONSIVE IN S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT. HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAMS MUST ACCOMPANY AND NOT REPLACE EFFORTS TO INCREASE GROWTH. IT IS IN US SELF-INTEREST TO NARROW THE SHARP ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN THE WORLD. ONE OF THE OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME IS THE WAY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS. USDEL COMPLIMENTED ON FORTHCOMING POSTURE. DA COSTA PRIVATELY TOLD US U.S. HAS POSITIVE POLITICAL ASSET IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR LDC'S AND SHOULD USE ALL OPPORTUNITIES IN UNCSTD TO EXPLOIT IT.

5. FITC: PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSED FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WAS DESCRIBED IN USDEL STATEMENT AND SUPPORTED IN SHORT PAPER OUTLINING FITC PRELIMINARY PLANS AND CONCEPTS WHICH WIDELY CIRCULATED. COMMENT STRONGLY POSITIVE ON SUBSTANCE AND AS FIRST SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY A DEVELOPED COUNTRY INDIA FOR ONE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT FURTHER ON FITC, DA COSTA URGED US CONSIDER EMINENT LDC REPS ON BOARD OF ADVISERS ASSUMING NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS.

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R 251353Z JUL 78 ZDK DUE TO NUMEROUS SVCS

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6. REGIONAL PAPER: A NEW AND SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED DRAFT WAS CIRCULATED BY ESCAP SECRETARIAT. MOST COMMENTS ON IT WERE FAVORABLE, INDICATING IT MUCH MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEMBER COUNTRY VIEWS THAN ORIGINAL DRAFT (SEE REF B). NEVERTHELESS, US AND OTHERS MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. JAPAN THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE MORE ANALYTICAL AND GIVE EMPHASIS TO RURAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT. USSR PRESSED FOR REFERENCES TO DISARMAMENT AND FOR GREATER RECOGNITION OF ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN PLANNING FOR USE OF S&T IN DEVELOPMENT. US URGED PAPER GIVE GREATER RECOGNITION TO CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MNC TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND NOT ADDRESS PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY ISSUES BEING HANDLED IN UNCTAD. ESCAP SECRETARIAT AGREED TO REVISE DRAFT IN LIGHT OF THIS DISCUSSION. WHILE MEETING AGREED PAPER BE TREATED AS SECRETARIAT RATHER THAN ESCAP DOCUMENT REQUIRING FULL AGREEMENT OF GOVERNMENTS, MANY DELS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PAPER AS BALANCED REFLECTION OF INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF REGION.

7. PROGRAM OF ACTION: DISCUSSIONS WERE BASED ON ESCAP SECRETARIAT DRAFT OF RECOMMENDATIONS DRAWN FROM REGIONAL PAPER. USSR DEL SOUGHT TO HAVE THE ECE REGIONAL MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS USED AS A MODEL, BUT MET WITH WIDE OPPOSITION FROM OTHER DELS WHO THOUGHT ESCAP REGION FREE TO TAKE WHATEVER APPROACH IT WANTED. SOVIETS SOUGHT TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO DISARMAMENT IN PREAMBLE, BUT MET WITH STRONG PRC OPPOSITION. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON FOLLOWING TEXT BASED ON PRC SUGGESTION FOLLOWED BY LANGUAGE DRAWN FROM PREPCON II REPORT: "AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING AN AMICABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES GUIDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND RE-
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COGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING THE HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES DEVOTED TO MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARMAMENTS,..."

8. FOLLOWING BRIEF PREAMBLE, RECOMMENDED PROGRAM OF ACTION

IS BROKEN DOWN INTO STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. WHILE MOST OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARE GENERAL IN NATURE, CLEAR AND CENTRAL FOCUS IS ON STEPS TO STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS S&T CAPABILITIES. PLANNING AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE HIGHLIGHTED AT NATIONAL LEVEL, WHILE TCDC ELEMENTS PREDOMINATE IN REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS. ACTIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL INCLUDE AN INDIAN-PROPOSED NEW UN FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH GAINED LITTLE INTEREST OR SUPPORT. IT ENDED UP IN DILUTED FORM IN COMPROMISE PARAGRAPH BEGINNING WITH STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS THAT UN UTILIZE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN CREATE NEW ONES. JAPAN, SUPPORTED BY US AND USSR, TOOK LEAD IN OPPOSING INDIANS.

9. PRC PARTICIPATION: PRC DELEGATE (HUA LIN), NEWLY ACCREDITED TO ESCAP ON PERMANENT BASIS, TOOK FAIRLY ACTIVE AND HELPFUL ROLE IN DISCUSSIONS, EVEN ON NON-POLITICAL ISSUES. ESCAP SECRETARIAT, IN WELCOMING HIM, OBSERVED THIS FIRST TIME PRC HAS PARTICIPATED IN ANY ESCAP MEETING OTHER THAN ANNUAL MINISTERIAL. WHILE FRIENDLY WITH ALL DELEGATIONS SAVE SOVIETS, PRC DEL RELUCTANT TO GO INTO ANY DEPTH REGARDING HIS COUNTRY'S OBJECTIVES AT UNCSTD WHICH STILL UNCLEAR. O'DONOHUE

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